

RBAC Newsletter – October 2003

KAISER PERMANENTE RBAC TASK FORCE KICK-OFF MEETING

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) Task Force (TF) representatives met with the Kaiser Permanente (KP) representatives for the KP RBAC TF kickoff meeting from 6-7 October 2003. Dr. Ted Cooper of KP Clinical Operations hosted the meeting in Oakland, CA. The meeting was similar in format and presentation as the VHA and DoD RBAC TF kick-offs. Materials included the RBAC Healthcare, RBAC VHA and RBAC generic charters, RBAC Role Engineering Process, RBAC website, and the Groove collaboration application. Both KP and VHA view RBAC as a collaborative effort, rather than it being an independent task force effort.

RBAC BASIC ROLES

A list of basic healthcare roles is being developed and reviewed by the Kaiser Permanente (KP), Department of Defense (DoD) and VHA RBAC Task Forces. The list of Basic Roles originated using ASTM E1986, which was then mapped to the Health Care Provider Taxonomy of the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC). Definitions have also been written for the Basic Roles.

TAXONOMY OF FUNCTIONAL ROLES

VHA plans to propose a complete list of scenarios for approval by the various Task Forces. While there is no plan to completely model all scenarios outside of HL7, having such a list would be a major first step in determining the amount of model yet to do and to focus HL7 technical committee activities once modeling becomes part of HL7 activities.

SDO Activity

- * NIST - The VHA Health Information Architecture (HIA) office proposed a change to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for the ANSI RBAC standard that involves the concept of Basic Roles. The current draft RBAC standard addresses only Functional Roles. The proposed changes are being considered for an informative annex to the standard when it is submitted for review as an ISO standard. The proposed annex may be found on the Task Force Website.

- * OASIS - VHA HIA is monitoring the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standard (OASIS) standards for Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) and Extensible Access Control Markup Language (XACML) for AAIP. Activities are moving slowly. Several models for large-scale implementation are available, including Southwest Airlines, Fidelity and the Boeing Corporation.

- * ASTM - American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) will be meeting in Florida on 16-17 Nov 2003. Issues being addressed by ASTM include the enumeration of ASTM E1986 basic roles.

- * HL7 - VHA HIA is preparing to present HL7 message control structure changes at the HL7 meeting in January 2004. In addition, a 'birds of a feather' planning session is envisioned to formally advance

the acceptance of the role engineering process within HL7. VHA plans to propose a consolidated meeting of Task Force members, along with supporting Technical Committee Chairs to consider our approach to full realization of the Task Forces goal of a published HL7 Healthcare RBAC Standard. All members will be approached in the near future for their availability for the January 2004 meeting.

MODELING

At this time, seven scenarios have been completely modeled. These are being provided to the Task Forces for validation and approval. Task Force modeling activities are intended primarily to verify the role engineering process, not to model all possible scenarios. Complete modeling should take place within HL7 Technical Committee activities. Accordingly, we should consider whether our goals have been met and then begin planning to present consolidated Task Force activities and completed examples to HL7. Pending review by other Task Forces, VHA plans to curtail further scenario development.

INTERNATIONAL RBAC INTEREST

The National Health Service (NHS) of Great Britain inquired of the VHA HIA about Standard Roles. Dr. O'Hara, VHA RBAC Chair, responded to the request. The project is worth billions of dollars. NHS is involved in HL7, which may also be a medium where further collaboration may occur.

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